

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the instant application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for common contact identification comprising:

receiving in a first portable computing device corresponding to a first user a local wireless communication directly from a second portable computing device corresponding to a second user, wherein said local wireless communication comprises at least one among an infrared communication or a radio frequency (RF) communication, wherein said local communication identifies said second user, and wherein said first and second portable computing devices include locally stored contact information and processing capabilities for sending and receiving contact information and for comparing said contact information to determine whether said first and second users share at least one common contact;

~~receiving at a central receiving station a non-local wireless communication from said first portable computing device identifying at least said first and said second user, wherein said non-local communication is a cellular link communication or a satellite link communication;~~

~~accessing a data store comprising contact information corresponding to said first user and said second user to determine whether said first user and said second user have at least one common contact;~~

determining based upon comparing said contact information whether said first and second users share at least one common contact; and

if at least one common contact is determined, sending at least one subsequent non-local wireless communication to said first and second portable computing devices, said at least one subsequent non-local wireless communication providing to said second user a

visual symbol and a first identifier identifying said first user who has the at least one contact in common with said ~~first~~ second user, and providing to said first user the same visual symbol and a second identifier identifying said second user who also has the at least one contact in common with said first user, wherein the visual symbol indicates an acquaintance between the first and second user sharing the at least one common contact and includes text providing a name of the at least one common contact; and

displaying the visual symbol on a first display of the first portable computing device and on a second display of the second portable computing device to provide mutual visual identification to the first and second user and to identify the name of the common contact.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said at least one subsequent non-local wireless communication identifies said first and second users.

3. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein said at least one subsequent non-local wireless communication ~~identifies said at least one common contact~~ and changes the visual symbol based on the identified at least one common contact.

4. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein said second portable computing device provides notification to said second user that another user has at least one common contact when in a general vicinity to the first portable computing device.

5. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said first portable computing device provides notification to said first user that another user has at least one common contact.

6. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein said visual symbol is displayed to a first badge display unit associated with the first portable computing device and a second badge display unit associated with the second portable computing device.

7-9. (Cancelled)

10. (Currently Amended) A method for common contact identification using a portable computing device comprising:

at a first portable computing device, receiving a local wireless communication directly from a second portable computing device, said local communication identifying a second user corresponding to said second portable computing device, wherein said local wireless communication comprises at least one among an infrared communication or a radio frequency (RF) communication;

sending a non-local wireless communication from said first portable computing device to a receiving station, said non-local wireless communication identifying said second user and a first user corresponding to said first portable computing device, wherein said non-local communication is a cellular link communication or a satellite link communication; and

receiving a non-local wireless communication from said receiving station, said non-local wireless communication received by said first and second portable computing devices and indicating whether said first and second users share a common contact;

if said first and second users share a common contact, providing via said non-local wireless communication a visual symbol and an identifier identifying said second user as having at least one contact in common with said first user and further identifying to said first user the common contact, wherein the visual symbol indicates an acquaintance between the first and second user sharing the at least one common contact and includes text providing a name of the at least one common contact, and

displaying the visual symbol on a first display of the first portable computing device to provide visual identification to the second user and indicate the name of the at least one common contact.

11. (Original) The method of claim 10, further comprising:
notifying said first user that another user has been identified as having a common contact.

12. (Original) The method of claim 10, wherein said notification provides the identity of said second user.

13. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 10, further comprising:
specifying said visual symbol to a first badge display unit associated with the first portable computing device.

14-19. (Cancelled)

20. (Withdrawn) A method for common contact identification using a portable computing device comprising:

receiving in a first portable computing device a local wireless communication directly from a second portable computing device, said communication including contact information from said second portable computing device, wherein said local wireless communication comprises at least one among an infrared communication or a radio frequency (RF) communication;

comparing said contact information from said second portable computing device to contact information within said first portable computing device to determine whether one or more common contacts exist; and

providing a notification to at least one of said first and second portable computing devices if one or more common contacts exist, said notification providing to said first user an identifier identifying said second user as having at least one contact in common with said first user, wherein said notification is a local wireless communication

comprising at least one among an infrared communication or a radio frequency (RF) communication is an infrared communication.

21. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 20, wherein said notification is displaying a visual identifier.

22. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 20, wherein said notification is an audible sound.

23-24. (Cancelled)

25. (Currently Amended) A machine-readable storage, having stored thereon a computer program having a plurality of code sections executable by a machine for causing the machine to perform the steps of:

receiving in a first portable computing device corresponding to a first user a local wireless communication directly from a second portable computing device corresponding to a second user, wherein said local wireless communication comprises at least one among an infrared communication or a radio frequency (RF) communication, wherein said local communication identifies said second user, and wherein said first and second portable computing devices include locally stored contact information and processing capabilities for sending and receiving contact information and for comparing said contact information to determine whether said first and second users share at least one common contact;

~~receiving at a central receiving station a non-local wireless communication from said first portable computing device identifying at least said first and said second user, wherein said non-local communication is a cellular link communication or a satellite link communication;~~

~~accessing a data store comprising contact information corresponding to said first user and said second user to determine whether said first user and said second user have at least one common contact;~~

determining based upon comparing said contact information whether said first and second users share at least one common contact; and

if at least one common contact is determined, sending at least one subsequent non-local wireless communication to said first and second portable computing devices, said at least one subsequent non-local wireless communication providing to said second user a visual symbol and a first identifier identifying said first user who has the at least one contact in common with said first second user, and providing to said first user the same visual symbol and a second identifier identifying said second user who also has the at least one contact in common with said first user, wherein the visual symbol indicates an acquaintance between the first and second user sharing the at least one common contact and includes text providing a name of the at least one common contact; and

displaying the visual symbol on a first display of the first portable computing device and on a second display of the second portable computing device to provide mutual visual identification to the first and second user and to identify the name of the common contact.

26. (Original) The machine-readable storage of claim 25, wherein said at least one subsequent non-local wireless communication identifies said first and second users.

27. (Original) The machine-readable storage of claim 25, wherein said at least one subsequent non-local wireless communication identifies said at least one common contact.

28. (Original) The machine-readable storage of claim 25, wherein said second portable computing device provides notification to said second user that another user has at least one common contact.

29. (Original) The machine-readable storage of claim 25, wherein said first portable computing device provides notification to said first user that another user has at least one common contact.

30. (Previously Presented) The machine-readable storage of claim 25, wherein said identifier is a visual identifier to be provided to a badge display unit.

31-33. (Cancelled)

34. (Currently Amended) A machine-readable storage, having stored thereon a computer program having a plurality of code sections executable by a machine for causing the machine to perform the steps of:

at a first portable computing device, receiving a local wireless communication directly from a second portable computing device, said local communication identifying a second user corresponding to said second portable computing device, wherein said local wireless communication comprises at least one among an infrared communication or a radio frequency (RF) communication;

sending a non-local wireless communication from said first portable computing device to a receiving station, said non-local wireless communication identifying said second user and a first user corresponding to said first portable computing device, wherein said non-local communication is a cellular link communication or a satellite link communication; and

receiving a non-local wireless communication from said receiving station, said non-local wireless communication received by said first and second portable computing devices and indicating whether said first and second users share a common contact;

if said first and second users share a common contact, providing via said non-local wireless communication a visual symbol and an identifier identifying said second user as having at least one contact in common with said first user and further identifying to said first user the common contact, wherein the visual symbol indicates an acquaintance between the first and second user sharing the at least one common contact and includes text providing a name of the at least one common contact[[,]] ; and

displaying the visual symbol on a first display of the first portable computing device to provide visual identification to the second user and indicate the name of the at least one common contact.

35. (Original) The machine-readable storage of claim 34, further comprising:
notifying said first user that another user has been identified as having a common contact.

36. (Original) The machine-readable storage of claim 34, wherein said notification provides the identity of said second user.

37. (Previously Presented) The machine-readable storage of claim 34, further comprising:

specifying said visual symbol to a first badge display unit associated with the first portable computing device.

38-43. (Cancelled)

44. (Withdrawn) A machine-readable storage, having stored thereon a computer program having a plurality of code sections executable by a machine for causing the machine to perform the steps of:

receiving in a first portable computing device a local wireless communication directly from a second portable computing device, said communication including contact information from said second portable computing device, wherein said local wireless communication comprises at least one among an infrared communication or a radio frequency (RF) communication;

comparing said contact information from said second portable computing device to contact information within said first portable computing device to determine whether one or more common contacts exist; and

providing a notification to at least one of said first and second portable computing devices if one or more common contacts exist, said notification providing to said first user an identifier identifying said second user as having at least one contact in common with said first user, wherein said notification is a local wireless communication comprising at least one among an infrared communication or a radio frequency (RF) communication.

45. (Withdrawn) The machine-readable storage of claim 44, wherein said notification is displaying a visual identifier.

46. (Withdrawn) The machine-readable storage of claim 44, wherein said notification is an audible sound.

47-48. (Cancelled)

49. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 1, wherein said non-local communication is received by said second computing device, wherein said identifier

conveyed via said non-local communication is a visual identifier, and further comprising electronically conveying said visual identifier to a display unit worn by said second user, said display unit displaying the visual identifier to said first user when said first user is within a range of vision to view the display unit.

50. (Cancelled)